

REMARKS

1. Applicant submits the current amendments to the claims pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116(b) to avoid the rejections set forth in the last Office action and place the case in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests entry and a notice of allowance of both claims.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the specification at page 7, 2nd paragraph (line 18) and Fig. 3.

2. Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's final rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) over Ueda et al. (Noise and Life of Helical Timing Belt Drives) in view of Araki et al. (US 4840608). The present amendment includes a definition of backlash in claim 1. With backlash defined, it is clear that Araki's backlash is well below our claimed range of 1.6-3%.

To review the calculation: Araki's max backlash of is 0.15 mm = 1.57% of Pt at H1/W = 0.21, so H1/H = 28% of H. The backlash gap gets smaller if you measure at the half-height. Also, Araki teaches that even smaller is better (see backlash of "Improved Arcuate Tooth" in Table 2). Since the backlash of Araki is now clearly below the claimed range and Araki teaches away from the claimed range, claim 1 is not obvious in view of Araki.

3. Allowance of claim 2 is gratefully acknowledged.

FEE STATEMENT

Any fees which may be required as a result of the amendments made herein, including the fee for an extension of time, are authorized to be charged to Assignee's deposit account number 07-0475.

Respectfully submitted,

s/paul n dunlap/

Paul N. Dunlap
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 52,840
Telephone: (303) 744-4156

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